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ACROSS THE NATION

EPA orders GE to clean Hudson River

Items compiled from Tribune news services

Published December 5, 2001

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Bush administration on Tuesday ordered tons of PCBs removed from New York's upper Hudson River, setting in motion one of the largest dredging operations in the nation's history.

General Electric Co. dumped 1.3 million pounds of PCBs into the river before the federal government banned the pollutants in 1977. The company opposes dredging, which is expected to cost GE \$500 million.

Tuesday's final decision from the Environmental Protection Agency follows a plan formulated by the Clinton administration and endorsed by the EPA last summer.

GE spokesman Mark Behan said company officials had not received EPA's order and would not comment until they review it.

PCBs, used as insulation and a coolant, have been linked to cancer in laboratory animals.

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